

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 24, 1852.

The Intelligencer.

Office: Nos. 25 and 27 Fourteenth Street.

THE bank clearings of the principal cities of the country, outside of New York, show a gain in business for the week ending February 22, of 9.7 per cent as compared with the same time last year. Including New York, the gain is 37.2. New York is excluded from the estimate because the clearings there include stock speculative transactions. The loss at Pittsburgh was 2.8 per cent.

Scott, of the *Clarksburg News*, makes a heavy raid on the Legislature in the last issue of his paper. It reads like an anathema from the Vatican. Scott is a Tilden Democrat who supported Ben. Wilson as a Greenbacker last fall. His clamor now is for an adherence to Democratic principles, pure and undiluted. Will he please tell the Legislature what his own peculiar Democratic principles may be?

We have received a communication from the interior reviewing in pretty sharp style the political record of our distinguished friend, the member from Doddridge. We have published about all we have space for on this subject. It cannot be denied, we presume, that the Judge has a free and easy record in politics, and hence it is not strange that a good many people should turn up their noses in a sarcastic way at the idea of his taking such an active part in the Democratic Star Chamber Conclave the other night. The Judge needs considerable of a mantle of charity to cover all his gregarious affiliations in politics, and this being the case he ought not to tempt the criticisms of those who are tempted in regard to his antecedents.

Allusion is also made by the same writer to the canvass of 1872 on the part of Governor Jacob, at the time he made his independent run for Governor, in which he laid the lash upon the backs of some of the Democratic leaders in this State without stint.

All this is no new story, and we do not need to occupy a great deal of space with rehearsing the details. We only allude to the points made in order to let our friend, the Speaker, out of the close corner into which the Democracy are trying to drive him, because he is following in the line of illustrious precedent in exercising the freedom of opinion. The Speaker holds that the Democracy are in sympathy with the views that he holds—especially in financial matters—and that a great many people are ready to heed an untrammelled expression of such opinions, in preference to having their sentiments choked down by a repetition of the St. Louis fare of 1876.

Our correspondent, who writes from Clarksburg, might have cited the example of Hon. John J. Davis, another eminent leader, who, as an independent candidate in 1872, led Col. Ben Wilson, and who would have been glad to say him again in 1874 if the Republicans had not positively declined to support him. And, if we remember right, the Hon. Henry Brannan, of Weston, another prominent Democrat, was willing to attempt to slay the Colonel that year in case the Republicans would rally to his support. At least his possible candidacy was spoken of at the convention that nominated Gen. Goff in 1874.

We might spin out the list to considerable length if we were to canvass the names of all the ambitious Democrats in this State who have at times shown to the world that they were willing to go outside of the party ranks when they saw a chance for success. And hence we think that the leaders should be very wary and chary about setting up Star Chamber Courts of inquiry to punish independence of opinion. It is not by any means impossible that the whirligig of time may develop the fact in 1880 that those who are now putting down the party screws on the Speaker, may be in the same boat with him by that time. If, for instance, we should have poor crops throughout the country this year, and if our exports should fall off, and times should not improve, and labor should be scarce, and the price of living higher, the Democratic party would rush tumultuously into the embraces of the Greenbackers, and then it might come to pass that the rail on the Speaker would be a disagreeable reminiscence.

The Use of Convict Labor on Public Works.

Senate bill No. 124. A bill to provide for the use of convict labor on works of internal improvement in this State—was, on Saturday, ordered to its third reading in the House of Delegates. This bill provides that convicts in the Penitentiary may be let out to such counties as want them to work on the public roads, or to such internal improvement companies as will enter into bond to take the proper care of them. The provisions of the bill, as it has passed the Senate, and adopted thus far by the House, are as follows:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Va.: SECTION 1. That the Board of Public Works is authorized to furnish to any railroad or internal improvement company, free of hire, as many able-bodied male convicts from the Penitentiary as may now or hereafter be there as can be spared without interfering with the contracts heretofore made, to be used by such companies in the construction of their works within this State. Provided, that all expenses of guarding, boarding, clothing and medical attendance shall be borne by the company receiving said convicts.

Sec. 2. Before receiving said convicts the company so receiving shall execute and file with the Treasurer of this State a bond, with security, conditioned for the guarding, clothing, guarding and medical attendance of said convicts. The said company may in lieu of said bonds deposit money or other securities. The bond, with its penalty or the security deposited in lieu thereof, shall be fixed and approved by the Board of Public Works.

Sec. 3. The Superintendent of the Penitentiary shall furnish convicts in accordance with all necessary clothing of the same character as that furnished other convicts; and the company receiving said convicts shall pay the State the actual cost thereof.

Sec. 4. The Governor shall appoint a superintendent of the guard, whose compensation shall be paid by the company, and the superintendent shall have charge of the guard, and shall superintend the same, see that the convicts are properly fed, clothed, guarded, and have proper medical attendance; and he shall report to the Superintendent of the Penitentiary once a month, the condition and treatment of said convicts. The compensation of the superintendent of the guard shall be agreed upon between the Governor and the company.

Sec. 5. Upon proof that such convicts are improperly fed, clothed, or cruelly treated, the Governor may cancel any contract made under this act, and recall the convicts.

The provisions in regard to letting convicts to such counties as may desire to use them on the public roads, was added, in the shape of an amendment, on Saturday, by Mr. Harvey, of Cabell, and will, we presume, be adopted by the Senate when the bill goes back to that body for concurrence.

The bill has in contemplation the Virginia plan of using convict labor to develop the resources of the State. It proposes by this plan to obviate the objections that have been made against the competition of such labor with the free labor of the State, and to utilize it where it will do the least possible harm—that is, on such works of improvement as would not probably be built without it. For instance, a railroad has been projected and located from Hinton on the Chesapeake and Ohio to the New River Station on the Virginia and Tennessee road—sixty-eight miles in length. On the Virginia end of this road some four hundred and fifty convicts are to be employed, and on the West Virginia end it is proposed to employ all the convicts that can be obtained at Moundsville. As will be seen the whole expense of their employment is to be defrayed by the company obtaining them, and the State saved free from any outlay on their behalf. This road is to be the Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Southern connection with the net works of roads represented by the Virginia and Tennessee line. It also will open up a new field of red short area which will be supplied to the Ohio river valley furnaces at a reduced price as compared with present rates for the ores yielding the same per cent of iron.

The amendment to the bill by Mr. Harvey is a practical provision. It remedies, as far as it may be operative, the complaint about laboring men being compelled to work on the roads two or three days in a year, and is calculated to give the counties much better roads. A dozen convicts working steadily on the roads in a county under a Superintendent would give the county cheaper and better roads than by any other system, and we sometimes think that such a use of our convict labor would do less harm to outside labor and more good to the general public than any other disposition that could be made of it. We therefore favor the bill as amended.

The Proposed M. E. Seminary.

Farmington, Virginia.

One of our good citizens has already said that he will go \$500 for its location here. Have we not one hundred good and able men in the county who will give \$500 each in this great enterprise? The men are here and the money is here. Let not only the Church wake up but the general public. We have one of the most delightful sites in the country for the Seminary. Let all move together.

A Gold Mine in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE, March 1.—J. J. Hageman, of this city, who is largely interested in the iron mines on the Menominee Range, Upper Michigan Peninsula, has just returned from that section, whither he went to investigate the truth of the report recently telegraphed from Madison, announcing the discovery at Menominee of iron ore containing gold and silver in paying quantities. Mr. Hageman says that the excitement prevails at Wausau, where the Emmett and Brecken mines are located. After several days' investigation he found the average of three samples of the iron ore from the above mines which had been analyzed by the State, was about \$10 gold and \$10 silver per ton. These are the facts as stated by parties interested. It is a very difficult matter to separate the gold and silver and distinguish the small quantities from the iron ore, and the expense would be enormous. Mr. Hageman expects a speedy flattening out of the excitement which at present prevails.

Chicago Bombs Over the Veto.

CHICAGO, March 1.—A meeting was held at McKell Hall to-night to take action regarding the Chinese question. The hall was two-thirds full, Judge Welch presiding. Among the speakers were William H. Hays, James H. Hays, and others. Resolutions were unanimously adopted expressing sympathy with the Pacific coast; regretting the President's veto of the Chinese bill; calling on Congress to pass the bill over the veto; and thanking the United States for its resolution requesting the President to sign the bill.

Serious Charges Against Life-Saving Officers.

NEW YORK, March 2.—The survivors of the schooner David H. Falck, Captain Sawyer, wrecked at Barnegat, making serious charges against the managers of the life-saving station in the vicinity of the wreck. One of the lost seamen, named June, belonged to Bass Island, Lake Erie.

Forming Revolution in Cuba.

EX-GENERAL ESTEROS, of Madrid, has arrived here. It is reported that upwards of \$100,000 have been raised here to renew the revolution in Cuba.

Bishop Purcell's Affairs Complicated.

CINCINNATI, March 2.—The affairs of Arch Bishop Purcell were further complicated to-day by suit being entered against him by creditors. It is thought he will make an assignment next Tuesday, when a meeting of the creditors of this diocese will be held.

End of the Returning Board Cases.

NEW ORLEANS, March 1.—The demurrer filed by the counsel for Wells, Cassaway and Kenner was argued in the Supreme District Court to-day. Judge Whitaker decided the decision of the Supreme Court in the Anderson case binding. He sustained the demurrer and discharged the accused. This ends the Returning Board case.

Forger Captured at Parkersburg.

CINCINNATI, March 1.—J. Curry, charged with forging a four thousand dollar note on the Baltimore Bank, Baltimore, Ohio, and obtaining the money, was captured with \$3,000 of the original sum on his person, at Parkersburg, W. Va., yesterday.

Stock in the South Pass.

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